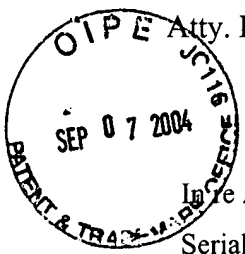


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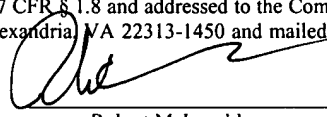


Atty. Docket No.: 1017.021 USC7

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Thomas E. Drake, Jr.
Serial No. 10/668,896
Filing Date: September 23, 2003
Examiner: Lee, Hwa S.
Group Art Unit: 2877
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING ULTRASONIC SURFACE
DISPLACEMENTS USING POST-COLLECTION OPTICAL AMPLIFICATION

Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendments
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Certification Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8
Date of Mailing: September 3, 2004
I hereby certify that I have caused the documents indicated herein to be deposited with the United States Postal Service via First Class Mail to Addressee under 37 CFR § 1.8 and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 and mailed on the above Date of Mailing.

Robert McLauchlan

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed June 3, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider the rejections of the Claims in view of the following amendments to the Claims and comments as set forth below.